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MEMOIRS

summer, he was overwhelmed with work, telling Mxiller, the representative of the Foreign Office who helped him in his daily task, to deal with the matter, and giving instructions for the contents to be carefully examined in the Wilhelmstrasse.

That the interview appeared in an unexpected form was, we are assured, mainly the fault of Miiller, who died long ago, and Klehrnet, the departmental official who was punished by the loss of his post. The Chancellor's story was subjected to a detailed analysis in a little book entitled *Kaiser und Kan%ler* the anonymous author of which argued that he had in fact read the interview but lacked courage to confess it. It certainly seems difficult to believe that, after the agitating experiences of eleven years, he should not have put aside his other papers for an hour and satisfied himself, without waiting for anybody's opinion, that the interview contained no blazing indiscretions. If, as he says, he omitted to do so, it was surely a very grave mistake, necessitating, one would have thought, a frank apology to his master.

William II was so crushed by the weight of the world's displeasure that for a moment he toyed with the thought of resignation. When Bulow went to Potsdam on November 17 for the first interview after the crisis the Empress greeted him with the words, " Be very gentle with the Emperor, he is quite broken." He looked pale and evidently anticipated a lecture. " Help me, save me/' were his first words. " What is going to happen ? Shall we pull through ? " Bulow replied that he had no doubt about it if His Majesty would be more careful in future, and reminded him of some of his past slips. The penitent ruler nodded agreement, and remarked that he would most certainly be more cautious. At the end of a long conversation he asked whether a proclamation or a

Cabinet Order
was wanted, and added in a friendly tone : " I am
ready for
anything." The Chancellor produced a mild
communiqué
for the official *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*^
which ended
with the statement that His Majesty assured the
Prince of his
continued confidence. The Kaiser appeared
surprised that
he had got off so easily, and said with emphasis
that he agreed
with every word. When the painful conversation
was over he
kissed his visitor on both cheeks, which he had
never done
except in conferring the Order of the Black
Eagle in 1901.
As the Chancellor left the room the host called
out: " I thank
you, I thank you from my heart." On returning
home Billow
observed to his wife : " Once again I have pulled
the Emperor